

October 23, 1963

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Dear Ed:

I hope it is possible to reconstruct a rigorous answer to your question in your letter of October 21; I hope that Luca still has the original notes on the experiment.

As best I can make out, the probable explanation is an ellipsis in our statement at the top of page 373. This probably should have referred to the 100 ml flask (page 369-370) or another one similar to it, inoculated with 0.1 ml or 0.2 ml from Tube 41, grown up and then reinoculated to give the series of assays quoted at the top of page 373. I can hardly give this as my own positive recollection of that experiment, but it is a plausible one, and would possibly be consistent both with our statement of the experiment and remain a valid test of the hypothesis. I would, of course, criticize such an imprecise statement as this, but there is not a great deal to do about it at this date.

I will ask Luca to specifically answer whether his notes bear out this interpretation of the statement.

As ever,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics

cc: Dr. L. Cavalli-Sforza